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1 — EPA: Hurricane Harvey compromised cap on toxic waste site, Texas Tribune, 9/29/17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/29/epa-hurricane-harvey-compromised-caps-toxic-waste-site/>

The Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that rains from Hurricane Harvey damaged a temporary protective cap on a pit of toxic sludge along the San Jacinto River east of Houston, exposing “underlying waste material.”

2 — Week ahead: EPA poised to deliver major ozone, climate decisions, The Hill, 9/02/17

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/353156-week-ahead-epa-poised-to-deliver-major-ozone-climate-decisions>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is poised to deliver major regulatory decisions on ozone and climate change in the coming week. The announcements could be test cases for how EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will handle his responsibilities to regulate when he might be hesitant to impose new costs on industry.

3 — EPA finds dioxin exposed at Superfund site after storm, orders tests, Reuters, 10/02/17

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-epa-superfund/epa-finds-dioxin-exposed-at-superfund-site-after-storm-orders-tests-idUSKCN1C432L>

Cancer-causing dioxins leached from a Superfund site along a Texas river during Hurricane Harvey flooding, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said, triggering calls on Friday for the toxic waste to be permanently moved. The EPA ordered International Paper and Industrial Maintenance Corp, a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc, on Thursday to conduct testing to determine the extent of the leaching.

4 — Arkema plant under criminal investigation by Harris County DA's office, Houston Chron, 9/29/17

<http://m.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/Arkema-plant-under-criminal-investigation-by-12242301.php?cmpid=twitter-mobile&cmpid=twitter-mobile>

Arkema has already been hit with at least one lawsuit claiming first responders were left vomiting and gasping for breath after being overcome by fumes from the explosion. The suit accuses Arkema of lacking proper procedures for keeping the chemicals cooled and failing to prepare for a major flood. It seeks at least \$1 million. Arkema has declined to comment on the lawsuit, but has repeatedly said the explosions did not pose a safety concern if residents stayed out of the evacuation area.

5 — Employees targeted in 'phishing' scam — IG, Greenwire, 9/29/17

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/09/29/stories/1060062177>

U.S. EPA employees were targeted in an elaborate "phishing" scheme by foreign hackers to buy up office supplies with stolen credit cards. In a podcast released today by the EPA inspector general, an agent for the watchdog office described its investigation into how EPA employees were caught up in the scam.

6 — Louisiana plans to restore the dying Maurepas Swamp with water diverted from the Mississippi, Lens, 9/29/17

<http://thelensnola.org/2017/09/29/louisiana-plans-to-restore-the-dying-maurepas-swamp-with-water-diverted-from-the-mississippi/>

Louisiana's coastal restoration agency has gotten about \$14 million to engineer a system to reconnect the Mississippi River to the Maurepas Swamp, which has been cut off from its rejuvenating floodwaters for about 80 years. The money comes from the Restore Council, established by Congress to allocate fines from the BP oil spill.

7 — DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MARIA, MANY PUERTO RICANS ARE MOVING TO TEXAS. SOME PLAN TO STAY AWHILE., Texas Standard, 9/29/17

<http://www.texasstandard.org/stories/categories/energy-environment/>

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, a lot of Puerto Ricans are setting their sights on becoming Texans. Because Puerto Rico is a territory of the U.S., its citizens are American citizens, too – free to locate anywhere in the country they wish. Mildred Lopez, a Puerto Rican community organizer and wife of the pastor of the Emanuel Church in Plano, says the members of her church are all Puerto Rican. Many, including Lopez' husband, have family on the island who are hoping to move to Texas – some temporarily, many for the long haul.

8 — Burying our head in sand on climate change no longer an option, 9/27/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Burying-our-head-in-sand-on-climate-change-no-12238961.php>

Every day during the Hurricane Harvey disaster, our hearts would sink as we kept hearing the word "unprecedented" again and again. Harvey wasn't supposed to strengthen so fast; it shouldn't have stalled where it did. Every day as we hoped the worst was over, Harvey would pummel us even harder. Everything was outside the norm, breaking all records. Over 50 inches of rain. Houston's "wettest month in recorded history." High river marks exceeded by 10 feet. A total volume of rainwater four miles square and two miles tall. Millions of residents evacuated or sheltering in place in America's fourth-largest city. All of them afraid.

9 — Formosa releases most chemicals in region after hurricane, Victoria Advocate, 9/29/17

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/29/formosa-releases-most-chemicals-in-region-after-hu/>

Formosa recently released more than 160,000 pounds - or the equivalent of 13 elephants - of chemicals, some of which are carcinogens, into the air. These emissions are rarely discussed among residents, whose livelihoods depend on the company.

10 — Health Official Says Anti-Mosquito Aerial Spraying Was Successful In Harris County, Houston Public Radio, 9/29/17

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2017/09/29/239827/health-official-says-anti-mosquito-aerial-spraying-was-successful-in-harris-county/>

This week, Texas completed its aerial spraying for mosquitoes, which was focused on curbing a potential surge of the mosquito population after Harvey, and health officials say the operation has been successful in Harris County.

State and county health officials say the large areas Harvey's rainfall and flooding created for

mosquitoes to lay eggs made the spraying necessary, especially considering these insects can carry diseases such as the West Nile and Zika viruses, as well as Dengue and Chikungunya.

11 — More wells needed in Kirtland fuel plume cleanup, Albuquerque Journal, 9/29/17

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1070986/more-monitoring-wells-needed-for-kafb-fuel-plume.html>

Albuquerque neighborhoods atop an underground fuel plume caused by a massive leak on Kirtland Air Force Base can expect to host more monitoring wells in the new year, officials said during a public meeting on the leak Thursday evening. Swiftly rising water table levels underground have taken 53 of about 150 of the existing wells out of commission, according to the New Mexico Environment Department.

12 To Help Save Monarchs, Oklahoma Conservationists Work to Repair a Plant's Weedy Reputation, NPR, 9/28/17

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2017/09/28/to-help-save-monarchs-oklahoma-conservationists-work-to-repair-a-plants-weedy-reputation/>

Stephanie Henson admires her colorful backyard garden in Edmond. Approaching a pink-and-white plant, she squeals and laughs and she spots some butterflies. "Oh look, they're itty-bitty," she says. "Look at 'em!"

13 US Extends Contract For Cleanup Work At Nuclear Lab, KRWG, 9/29/17

<http://krwg.org/post/us-extends-contract-cleanup-work-nuclear-lab>

The U.S. Energy Department has extended a contract worth \$65 million for environmental cleanup work at one of the nation's premier nuclear research laboratories. With the extension announced this week, the private consortium that runs Los Alamos National Laboratory will be paid for an additional six months of work. The contract was set to expire Saturday.

14 Uranium mines in Carson National Forest cleaned up after more than 60 years, Taos News, 9/29/17

<http://www.taosnews.com/stories/uranium-mines-in-carson-national-forest-cleaned-up-after-more-than-60-years,43321>

Two abandoned uranium mines in the Carson National Forest that for decades posed threats to human and ecological health have been cleaned up. The Tusas East Slope and J.O.L. mine sites are located less than a mile from each other, about 10 miles west of Tres Piedras in the national forest off of Forest Road 712.

15 Despite poor taste, Stillwater water is safe to drink according to DEQ, O Colly, 10/1/17

http://www.ocolly.com/news/despite-poor-taste-stillwater-water-is-safe-to-drink-according/article_892aae10-a6f3-11e7-8c84-e3b19a953133.html

Despite what some consider poor taste, the Stillwater plant that provides water to the city has had no functioning issues since the ammonia injectors failed last spring, city staff said. The safety of the water is of no concern to Carley Eastop, a junior chemical engineering student at Oklahoma State University. Eastop lives off campus, but does not drink city water without a filter.